

## **Cecil County Public Schools Fine Arts Instructional Program Delivery**

The Cecil County Public School system (CCPS) recognizes the significance of comprehensive programs in the arts. Over the past eleven years, many innovative programs have been developed to embrace all fine arts disciplines—music, art, theatre, and dance. The Instructional Coordinator for Fine Arts, Leadership Team, ArtsReach advocacy group, and teachers have worked collaboratively to expand and enhance fine arts opportunities for all students.

The staff that implements the fine arts program in 28 schools within Cecil County includes 33 art, 40.6 music, one theatre and 8 integrated arts instructional staff members at the elementary and secondary levels. As we have developed and refined our CCPS Strategic Plan in Fine Arts over the past eight years, our focus has been on the expansion of theatre and dance. With school year 2006-07, implemented Integrated Arts as an additional specialist position in all of our elementary schools. Over the next two years, eight dance and eight theatre teachers will join the compliment of elementary fine arts staff to serve each of our 17 elementary schools in all of the fine arts disciplines.

Elementary fine arts staff members teach classes of approximately 25 students once a week for 45-minute sessions. Middle school art and music classes are taught daily within a rotating fine and practical arts block. These sessions usually last for 7-9 weeks each. A plan for integrating theatre and dance at the middle school level will begin during 2007-08. A variety of electives are available in all arts disciplines at the high school level. These include foundational, introductory, advanced, honors, advanced placement, and studio classes in all of the arts.

For the past nine years, major steps have been taken to develop curricula, assessment, staff development, and instruction to reflect the Essential Learner Outcomes in the Fine Arts and Volunteer State Curricula. Documents completed to date include General Music K-8, Instrumental Music 4-12, High School Music Electives, Humanities, K-12 Dance, K-12 Theatre, High School Art, Middle School Art, Communicating Through The Arts, and Integrated Arts. Summative assessments for fourth and seventh grade art and music were administered during school year 2006-07. In addition, advancements in technology at the secondary level have been implemented as part of our CREATE Goals 2000 and Fine Arts Initiative Grants. Twelve out of 28 buildings have been renovated during the past ten years. Three schools are currently in the process of renovation. These facilities are providing updated technology and instructional resources in all of the fine arts.

Student achievement is currently measured in each classroom through formative and summative assessments. Final semester exams are required for each student at the high school level. Assessments for fine arts are planned for each level of instruction. Fourth and seventh grade art and music assessments were implemented in 2006-07.. High school assessments in art and music will be developed during in the next several years. Integrated Arts assessments will be developed as the program progresses.

## Strategic Plan Progress

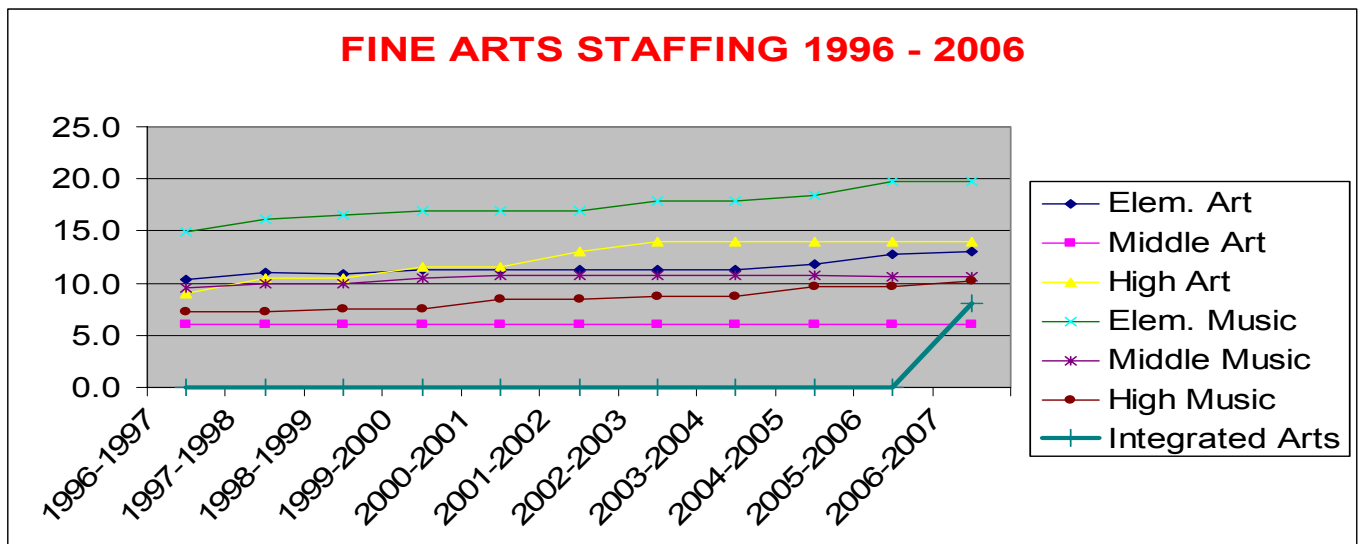
The Fine Arts mission in the Cecil County Public Schools is to “Provide a comprehensive fine arts program (art, music, dance, and theater) in grades Pre-K-12, giving each child opportunities to demonstrate increasing proficiency in Essential Learning Outcomes in Fine Arts.” The activities identified to support this strategy include:

1. Recruiting and placing highly-qualified fine arts teachers with appropriate classroom teaching loads.
2. Developing and maintaining state-of-the-art curriculum, instruction, enrichment, and assessment.
3. Providing high-quality staff development opportunities in art, theatre, dance, and music that reflect the Voluntary State Curriculum and Essential Learner Outcomes for the Fine Arts.
4. Providing accessibility to essential fine arts equipment, instruments, technology, and facilities.
5. Expanding ArtsReach partnerships within community and regional constituencies in order to provide resources to support the Fine Arts program.
6. Expanding co-curricular program to allow continued student access.
7. Providing career opportunities for students through the Arts & Communications Career Cluster.

Each activity was addressed this past school year.

## Highly-Qualified Staff

In the area of the recruitment and placement of highly-qualified fine arts teachers, the leadership and Board of Education provided the necessary components for the inclusion of dance and theatre in the area of Integrated Arts. The chart below indicates the increases in fine arts staff that have taken place during my tenure:



## Assessment

Assessment development during the past year has been very successful. Final assessment documents for fourth and seventh grade music and art were completely administered in each of the 17 elementary and six middle schools. Results of these assessments will be obtained in late August and delivered to the respective teachers on August 22-23, 2007. The following chart shows the progression of these assessment documents:

Assessment	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Art	Draft	Final Copy	Implementation	Analysis & Revisions
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Music	Draft	Final Copy	Implementation	Analysis & Revisions
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Music	Draft	Draft	Final Copy	Implementation
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Art			Draft/Final Copy	Implementation

Assessments for dance and theatre will be developed within the next several years when the Integrated Arts program is fully implemented.

## Instruments from the Attic

The “Instrument from the Attic” program continues to provide musical resources for students who otherwise would be financially unable to participate in music. During the past five years, the number of instruments in the inventory of the program and number of recipients have increased. An instrumental resource staff member continues to oversee the inventory, distribution, and contributions to this program.

	2000-01	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2006-07
<b>Inventory</b>	18	30	42	56	104	122	143
<b>Distributed</b>	12	17	24	30	38	43	79

## Fine Arts Technology

Technology implementation at the secondary level has been quite successful. Visual imaging hardware and software for visual arts and sequencing/composing/publishing hardware/software for music have been provided for both middle and high schools. Students are able to expand their knowledge and use of these digital resources, complete technology outcomes, and expand their creative portfolio productions.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
<b>Financial Resources</b>	\$15,816	\$30,851	\$7,148	\$27,609	\$16,302	\$18,952	\$5,428	\$122,105
<b>School Programs Affected</b>	10	8	3	9	7	8	5	50

## Dance/Theatre Enrichment

Student enrichment in dance and theatre is also a significant component in providing students with a comprehensive program in the fine arts and improving their proficiency in ELO outcomes. Throughout the duration of the Fine Arts Initiative Grants, CCPS, in collaboration with the Cecil Community College Cultural Center and Cecil Dance Theatre, have consistently offered enrichment programs in dance and theatre.

Year	Program	Students Attending	Number of Schools Represented
<b>2003-04</b>	Wood & Strings Theatre	434	6
	Dan Kamin "Physical Comedy"	228	6
	Cecil Dance Theatre "Aladdin"	837	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2004-05</b>	Covered Bridge Theatre "My Fair Lady"	610	10
	Cecil Dance Theatre "The Nutcracker"	896	13
	Box of Light Theatre	467	6
	Cecil Dance Theatre "The Lion King"	978	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>2005-06</b>	Cashore Marionettes "Simple Gifts"	423	7
	Cecil Dance Theatre "The Spirit of Christmas"	863	11
	Covered Bridge Theatre "Death of a Salesman"	95	1
	Cecil Dance Theatre "Cinderella"	858	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,239</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>2006-07</b>	Community Cultural Center "Masked Marvels and Wonder Tales"	414	7
	Cecil Dance Theatre "The Spirit of Christmas"	986	10
	Covered Bridge Theatre "Complete Works of William Shakespeare"	73	1
	Dave Leonardt Jazz Quartet	97	5
	Cecil Dance Theatre "Beauty and the Beast"	712	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,282</b>	<b>34</b>

The Fine Arts Initiative Grant has provided the enrichment fees, transportation, and substitute coverage for these programs.

## Equipment

During the past five years, attention has been placed on the inventory and requests for fine arts equipment. Data has been collected from each school regarding essential fixed and modular equipment. These requests have been compiled in priority order and are being filled as funding permits. Limited local funding has slowed the process of replacing significant amounts of equipment. The following chart represents progress in this area:

**Fine Arts Equipment Summary**

Year	Equipment Budget Request	Budget Granted	# Schools Affected
2003-04	\$32,000	\$9,000	5
2004-05	\$32,000	\$9,000	7
2005-06	\$32,000	\$9,000	3
2006-07	\$32,000	\$25,807	8

An additional \$24,000 was added to the FY 07 budget to support the program needs of the high school band program. This budget will ensure that progress is made in uniform replacement/maintenance, transportation, and instrument replacement. The FY 08 budget has approved \$48,400 in additional equipment for Fine Arts.

The contract made with Jason's Music to participate in the Piano Loan Program in FY 07 was very successful. It provided three new pianos and three loan pianos to be used in six of our high priority need schools. An additional three pianos were added to the inventory in May 2007.

## Staff Development

During the past four years, considerable efforts have been placed into teacher staff development addressing technology and assessment. Through collaborative efforts with Cecil Community College, Visual Communications Department and *Sibelius* Software Representatives from Jordan Kitts Music, teachers have been provided multiple hands-on sessions and appropriate follow-up in digital imaging and music composition and publishing software. The following data represents sessions that have been held for staff in both art and music over this time period:

Date	Topic	Participants	Overall Rating			
			Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
11/8/01	Music Technology	19	87%	13%		
11/11/02	Visual Communications	12	55%	45%		
11/6/03	Visual Communications	10	87.5%	12.5%		
11/6/03	Music Technology	19	35%	65%		
11/8/04	Art Technology - Secondary	20	80%	20%		
11/8/04	Music Technology - Secondary	25	27%	73%		
9/12/05	Art Technology - Secondary	15	33%	67%		

9/12/05	Music Technology – Secondary	18	33%	67%		
9/12/05	Elementary Inst. Technology	5	27%	73%		
9/12/06	HS Music Sibelius	10	80%	20%		
1/25/07	Elementary Art Technology	11	36%	64%		

During the past five years, significant emphasis has been placed on the development of assessment processes and documents for grades 4, 7, and high school. Appropriate staff development sessions have been provided to teachers in assessment models, design approaches, and assessment development.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Overall Rating</u>			
			<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>
1/27/03	Art Assessment	8	20%	80%		
8/21/03	Update, Curriculum, Assessment, Festivals - Elementary.	23	32%	68%		
9/3/04	Assessment, Update	11	55%	45%		
9/3/04	Update, Assessment - Elementary	20	42%	53%	5%	
9/12/05	Elementary Art Assessment	18		100%		
11/7/05	H.S. Art & Music Assessment	16	17%	42%	33%	8%
11/7/05	Middle School Music Assessment	5	25%	75%		
1/25/06	Elem. Instrumental Assessment	9	33%	67%		
9/12/06	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Art Assessment	6		33%	67%	
9/12/06	H.S. Art Assessment	8	25%	75%		
9/12/06	M.S. Music Assessment	4	25%	75%		
9/12/06	H.S. Music Assessment	5	100%			
11/6/06	M.S. Art Assessment	4			100%	
11/6/06	H.S. Instrumental Assessment	5	60%	40%		
1/25/07	Inst. Portfolio Assessment	5	100%			

## **Fine Arts Partnerships**

Throughout the past ten years, partnerships have been developed for arts education in Cecil County. In school year 1997-98, Cecil County Public Schools, Cecil Community College, and Cecil County Arts Council formed a charter partnership, ArtsReach. Each successive year since that time, additional arts constituencies have been added to the organization:

<b>Membership Date</b>	<b>Organizations Joining ArtsReach</b>
2/26/97	Cecil County Public Schools
2/26/97	Cecil Community College
2/26/97	Cecil County Arts Council
6/30/97	Cecil Dance Theatre
11/5/97	Upper Chesapeake Community Band
2/16/98	Cecil County Choral Society
5/7/98	Woman's Club of Cecil County
9/25/98	Community Cultural Center

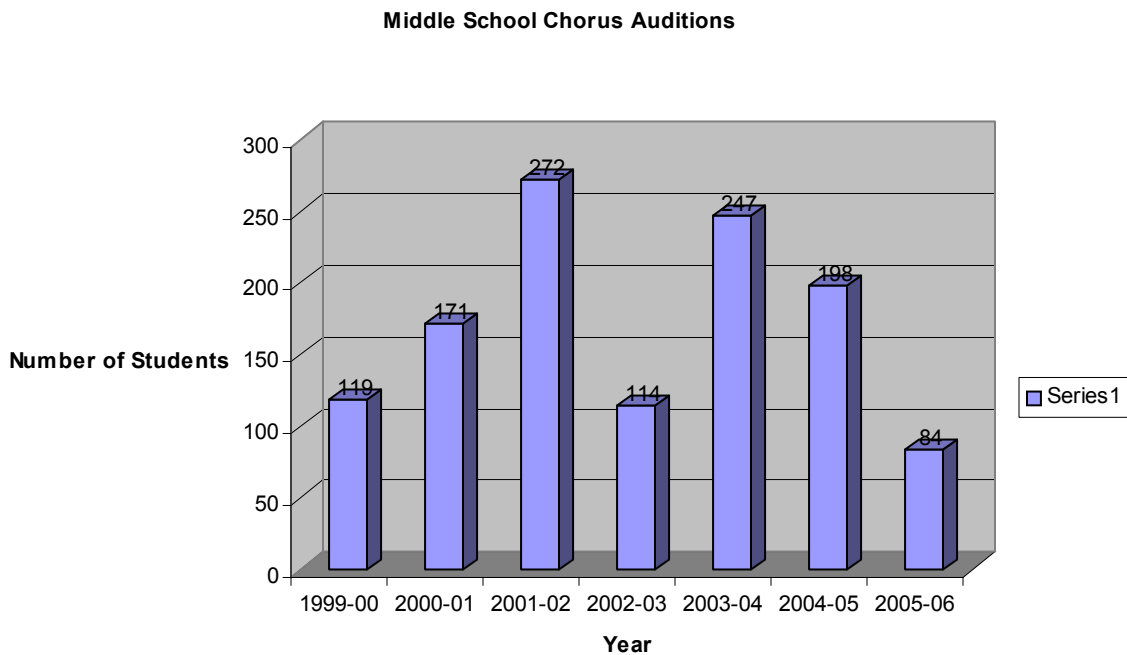
*Cecil County Public Schools Fine Arts Department*  
4/22/2008

8/12/99	Sandy Cove Conference Center
9/7/99	Fair Hill Nature Center
3/20/00	Convergence Dance Centre
3/22/01	Newark Symphony Orchestra
5/21/03	Bender Music

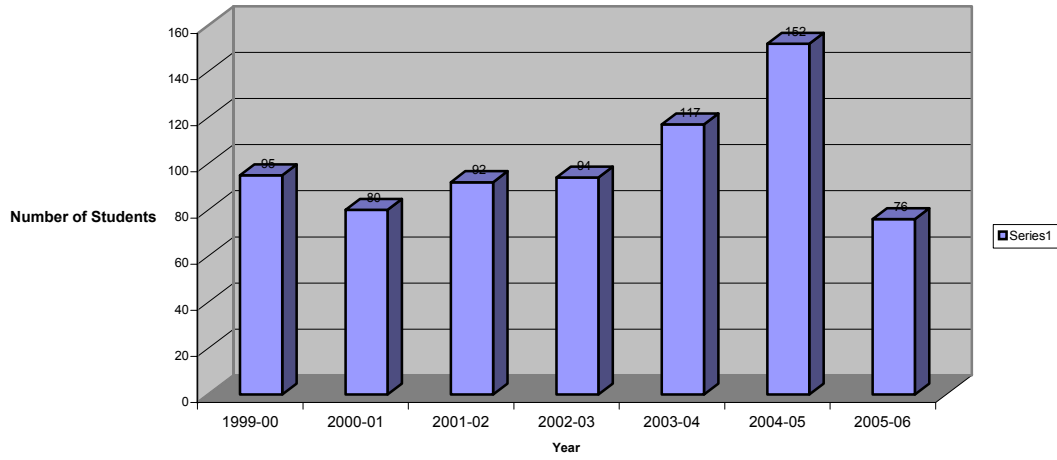
During 2005-06 the organization revised its Bylaws and Constitution. They have also expanded their initiative to ensure that the maximum number of arts support agencies and individuals can participate in the organization. A renewed emphasis has also been placed on individual membership. A variety of subcommittees have been appointed to address the mission and various roles of the organization.

### Co-Curricular Participation

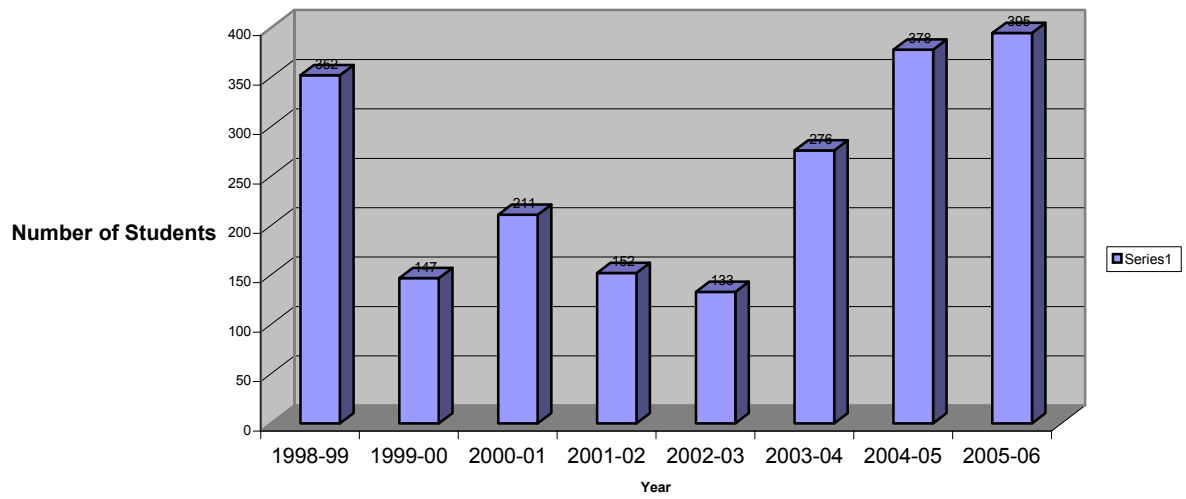
Over the past eleven years, student opportunities in county/state art shows and All-County and All-State activities have dramatically increased. The following graphs demonstrate the increased participation for each of the respective groups:

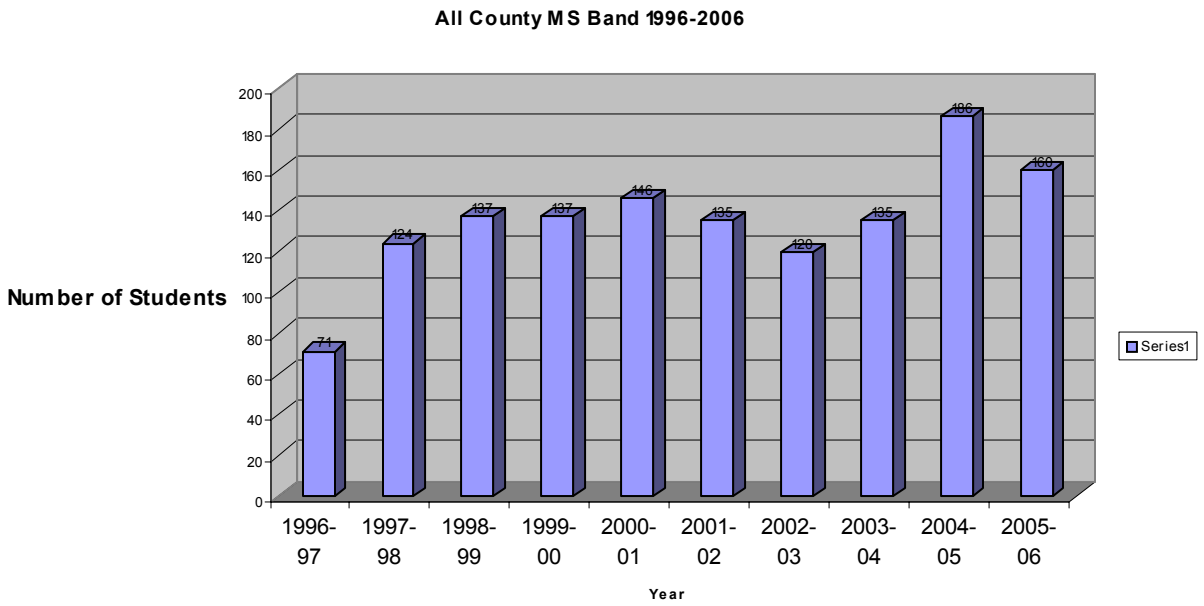
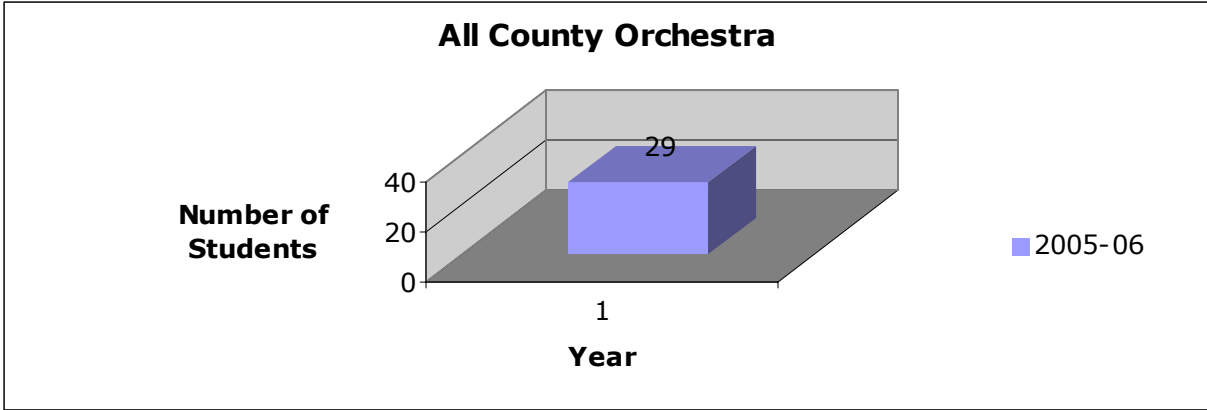


High School Chorus 2000-06

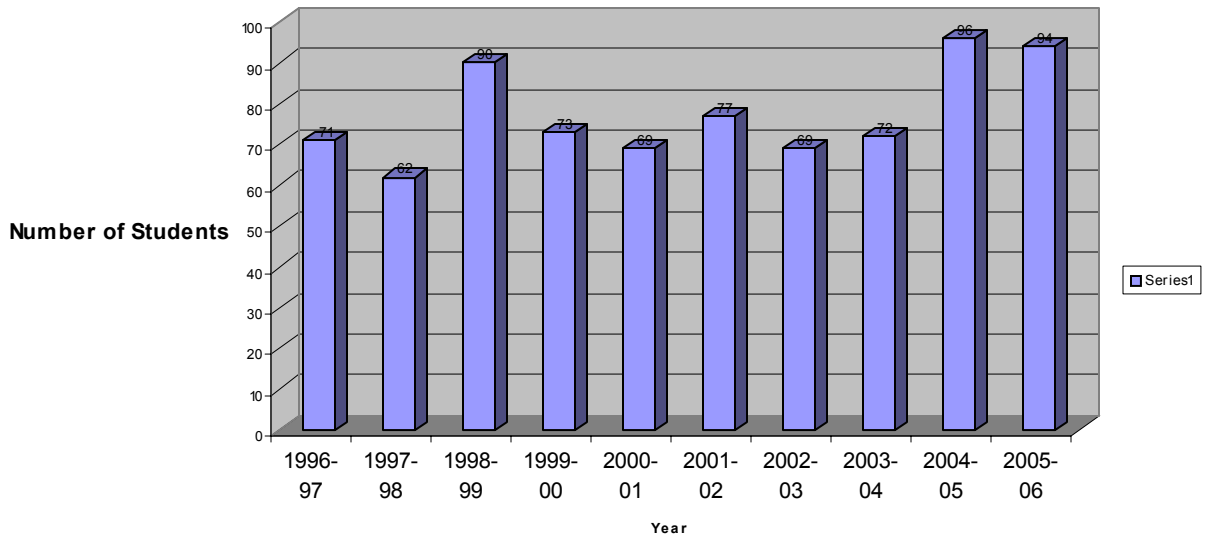


Solo & Ensemble 1999-2006

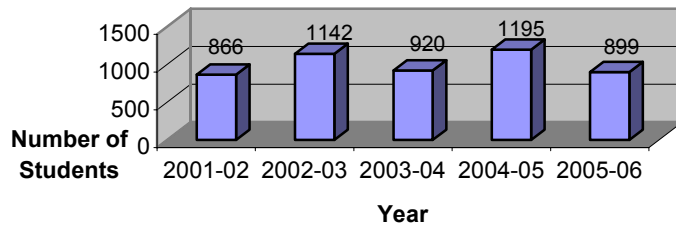




**All County HS Band 1996-2006**



**Art Show Participation**



## Arts Cluster Career Opportunities

Significant work has been accomplished to support the high school career cluster initiative. Articulation agreements with Cecil Community College have provided college credit for high school courses and dual credit opportunities. Eligible courses include Acting for Video Production, Digital Illustration, Digital Imaging, Introduction to Filmmaking, Multimedia Production, Web Design, Theatre, and Honors Drama. Foundation to Digital Arts, a multi-course offering for seniors in their final semester, will provide an opportunity for students to work at the college level. They will be able to pursue digital photography, digital imaging, digital filmmaking and/or design, and presentation and receive 3-12 college credits prior to high school graduation.

A comparable agreement with Harford Community College was implemented for the 2006-07 school year. Students will be given college credit for Music Theory II, Advanced Keyboard, AP Music Theory, and The History of American Music. For students interested in pursuing music, it will provide up to 11 college credits for courses taken during high school.

Educational Specifications for a new Cecil County Comprehensive High School for Technology were developed this year and submitted to MSDE for approval. Significant collaborations were made with area schools both in and outside Maryland. These collaborations resulted in state-of-the-art facility specifications for each of the arts within the Arts and Communications Cluster.

## **Summary**

Significant progress had been made in each strategic area of the Fine Arts Strategic Plan. A landmark step was taken in hiring fifteen dance and theatre specialists to implement the Integrated Arts program. These specialists will ensure a comprehensive offering in each of the fine arts areas—a significant accomplishment for our Strategic Plan. Equipment initiatives show considerable progress during the past two years, especially with the increased funding in this category for FY 08.

During 2007-08, the Cecil County Fine Arts Strategic Plan will continue to address major activities including recruiting and placing highly-qualified staff, maintaining state-of-the-art curriculum/instruction/assessment/enrichment, providing high-quality staff development, providing accessibility to essential equipment/instruments/technology and facilities, expanding ArtsReach partnerships, expanding the co-curricular program, and providing career opportunities for all students.